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DOCTORS OF SAMUEL JOHNSON AND HIS COURT ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

By JAMES P. WARBASSE, M. D. ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

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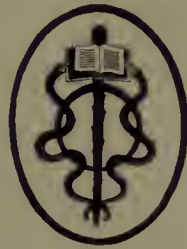
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DOCTORS OF SAMUEL JOHNSON AND HIS COURT

THAT loquacious genius and literary prodigy, Doctor Samuel Johnson, was the sovereign of all the English world of letters in the middle period of the Eighteenth Century. Nothing that touched humanity was alien to his interests, and many were the followers of the art of medicine who came within his court. In the "Life of Doctor Samuel Johnson, and his Conversations with Many Eminent Persons," as presented to us by Mr. James Boswell, Esq., we find a border-line where medicine touches literature; and, without entering into the great realm of physic on the one side or yet into the dominion of letters on the other, we may, with some profit and entertainment, mingle among the men of this border-land, pausing the longest with those strong characters who hold our attention the most securely.

While many of the greatest medical men of this period are found missing from the court of Samuel Johnson, we may be assured that it is because they are occupied with usefulness elsewhere and that it is no essential badge of medical worth to have one's name hung upon the lips of literature. Nor do we desire to be understood to be in sympathy with the vagaries uttered by Samuel Johnson or his faithful chronicler; we simply take out of Boswell's Life of Johnson the medical history therein presented, amplify it here and there from other sources, and thank the *Ursa Major* for his interest in the sons of Sol.*

Furthermore, medicine is under an obligation to Samuel

*The practitioners of medicine herein referred to are those whose names are found in *The Life of Samuel Johnson*. By James Boswell. Edited by Arnold Glover. J. M. Dent & Co., London, MCM1.

Johnson for the services which he has performed in the interests of medical history, and for attentions which he has bestowed upon the works of medical men. He wrote the life of Boerhaave (1739); he wrote the life of Sydenham (1742), which was afterwards prefixed to Dr. Swan's edition of the works of Sydenham; he wrote the dedication to Dr. Mead in Dr. James' Medical Dictionary (1743); he dedicated a number of his papers in *The Adventurer* to Dr. Bathurst (1753); he wrote the life of Sir Thomas Browne (1756); and he was the author of most complimentary reviews of Browne's "Christian Morals" (1756) and Goldsmith's "Traveller" (1764). Besides these he had among his friends many medical men. In this little view into the medical world of the 18th century we shall touch the lives only of those who are honored by mention in the chronicles of Mr. James Boswell.

At the convivial gatherings of "The Club" at Ivy Lane at the Turk's Head, and at the Essex Head, where the art of conversation was cultivated, as it never has been cultivated since, there were always medical members present. The disappearance of such gatherings as these, has accompanied the decadence of the gentle art of conversation, which was once the glory of medical men. At these gatherings the first doctor of medicine whom we encounter is Goldsmith.

OLIVER GOLDSMITH, M.D., (1728-1774), was born in Ireland, at Ballymahon on the river Inny. He studied at Trinity College, Dublin, and entered upon medicine at Edinburgh in 1752. Here he played the flute, sang his songs, attended the lectures of Alexander Monro, and joined the Medical Society of Edinburgh. The record of his good-fellowship, his singing and tale-telling is richer than the record of his devotion to medical studies.

He was a restless soul and soon proposed to go to Leyden to attend the lectures of Albinus. At Leyden he came in contact with Gaubius, remained long enough to study the character of the Dutch, and then set out on foot, and without money, to travel the continent. With his flute and his wits he won his way. At the University of Lorraine he received the degree of Bachelor of Medicine. At Paris he studied chemistry under Rouelle, and thence proceeded to Germany, Switzerland and Italy. His doctor's degree he received at Padua. At the end of a year of wandering, he landed at Dover with a few pence and much experience. Out of these travels he wrote the "Enquiry into Polite Learning in Europe," the "Philosophic

Vagabond," and secured much of the inspiration which entered into his greater works.

Again in England the necessity of earning a livelihood presented itself. He turned his talents to this end, and was often sorely pressed in his many vocations. "I was without friends, recommendations, money or impudence, and that in a country, where, being an Irishman was sufficient to keep me unemployed. Many in such circumstances would have had recourse to the friars' cord, or the suicide's halter. But, with all my follies, I had principle to resist the one, and resolution to combat the other."

He prospered slowly, and built up some practice in medicine among the inopulent denizens of Southwark. Prior, in his life of Goldsmith, records that in conformity to the custom of physicians, Goldsmith wore a velvet coat. His means not being adequate for the purchase of a new one, he procured one second hand, which had required to have a patch set in the left breast to repair a breach. This operation had not been done with sufficient skill to pass the notice of his friends or persons with whom he came in close relation as a medical attendant. Prompted by pride to conceal what was obviously a sign of poverty, he was accustomed to hold his hat over this sartorial defect when making his calls; but this peculiar attitude being noticed, soon became a cause of merriment among the friends of poor Goldsmith who loved him none the less for his vanity.

While he devoted much time to literature and adventures, he applied for the humble office of hospital mate, but failed to pass the required examination. He lived in poverty much of the time—at Greene Arbour Court, in squalor. Here came Tobias Smollett to secure Goldsmith's collaboration in his new magazine, *The British*.

Writing for the magazines soon became his occupation, and with it came better emoluments and better living. Goldsmith was the original author of English letters purporting to emanate from Chinese sources and reflecting upon the wickedness of English customs. He published a series of such "Chinese Letters," and later saw them appear in a well patronized volume. These letters are fine pieces of satirical philosophy and history. He pokes fun at the fashions of the day, which Reynolds and Hogarth had already attacked with brush and pencil. A number of the papers deal with the quackery and the quacks, Rock and

Ward and the others, who kept themselves in the public eye through the advertising sheets of the day.

Then came the "Literary Club" with Johnson and the rest at the Turk's Head. And then appeared "The Traveller," which at once brought him into prominence as a poet the equal of Pope.

Again he took up the practice of physic at the advice of Reynolds, but failed completely, only to fall back upon literary work as a means of livelihood. At Brick Court, where he spent the remainder of his days, his apartments were directly over those of Blackstone, busy on his "Commentaries," and who was often interrupted by the roistering of Goldsmith and his convivial guests. When the King appointed Goldsmith professor of ancient history, without salary, in the Royal Academy, which he had recently established, Goldsmith wrote that he took it rather as a compliment to the institution, saying that honors to one in his situation "are something like ruffles to one that wants a shirt."

In his writings Goldsmith displayed a wonderful power of beautiful English expression, yet in conversation he failed utterly. It was Garrick who characterized Goldsmith,

"—for shortness called Noll,
Who wrote like an angel, and talked like poor poll."

Johnson said, "The misfortune of Goldsmith in conversation is this: he goes on without knowing how he is to get off. His genius is great, but his knowledge is small."

Goldsmith had little money, and gave away liberally what little he had. He wrote, sang songs, ate, drank and was withal a merry man. He is found at his best in "The Deserted Village," which must be designated as one of the sweetest and most chaste examples of simple English verse.

"She Stoops to Conquer," which stands in the front rank of masterpieces of English comedy, is probably the best known of his dramatic productions. He wrote biographies and history, among which are an History of Greece and an History of England. His two great poems, "The Deserted Village" and "The Traveller," are among the first lessons of the young and the cherished memories of the old. His essays and letters hold a secure place among the finest examples of English style.

In his last illness he was attended by William Hawes, surgeon apothecary, who had in consultation Dr. Turton and Dr. Fordyce. He died at the age of 45, and was buried in the bury-

ing ground of Temple Church. Two years later a monument with a medallion portrait was erected to him in Westminster Abbey. Johnson wrote the Latin inscription which, translated, is as follows:

Of Oliver Goldsmith—
 Poet, Naturalist, Historian,
 who left scarcely any style of writing untouched,
 and touched nothing that he did not adorn;
 of all the passions, whether smiles were to be moved or tears,
 a powerful yet gentle master;
 in genius, sublime, vivid, versatile;
 in style, elevated, clear, elegant—
 the love of Companions,
 the fidelity of Friends,
 the veneration of Readers,
 have by this monument honored his memory.
 He was born in Ireland,
 at a place called Palles,
 on the 29 November, 1731
 Educated at Dublin,
 and died in London,
 4th April, 1774.

So loved was Goldsmith by his friends that upon the announcement of his death the strong Burke burst into tears, Reynolds laid aside his brush for a day, and Johnson settled into a deeper gloom.

Dr. RICHARD BATHURST was the son of a West Indian planter. He was an admired and close friend of Dr. Johnson, and belonged to the club in Ivy Lane. He was a physician of no inconsiderable merit, but did not succeed in gaining much practice in London. He went as surgeon on the English expedition against Havana, and fell a sacrifice to the fever. Dr. Johnson wrote, "The Havannah is taken—a conquest too dearly obtained, for Bathurst died before it." He was one of the contributors with Johnson to *The Adventurer*.

JOHN RUTTY, M.D., was a Quaker physician of Dublin, and author of several works, among which was "A Spiritual Diary and Soliloquies," by John Ruddy, M.D. This publication was a diary kept by him from 1753 to the year in which he died, 1775, and published in two volumes. The work exhibits his simplicity, and honesty to a degree which is, if not instructive, at least amusing, as the following extracts will testify:

"Tenth month, 1753, 23. Indulgence in bed an hour too long."

"Twelfth month, 17. An hypochondriack obnubilation from wind and indigestion."

"Ninth month, 28. An overdose of whiskey."

"First month, 1757, 22. A little swinish at dinner and repast."

"31. Dogged on provocation."

"Second month, 5. Very dogged or snappish."

Good Dr. Rutty's "Spiritual Diary" might indicate that the life of a Dublin Quaker was not altogether free from irritation, and that the calm of Quakerism was no antidote to the vexations of the gout.

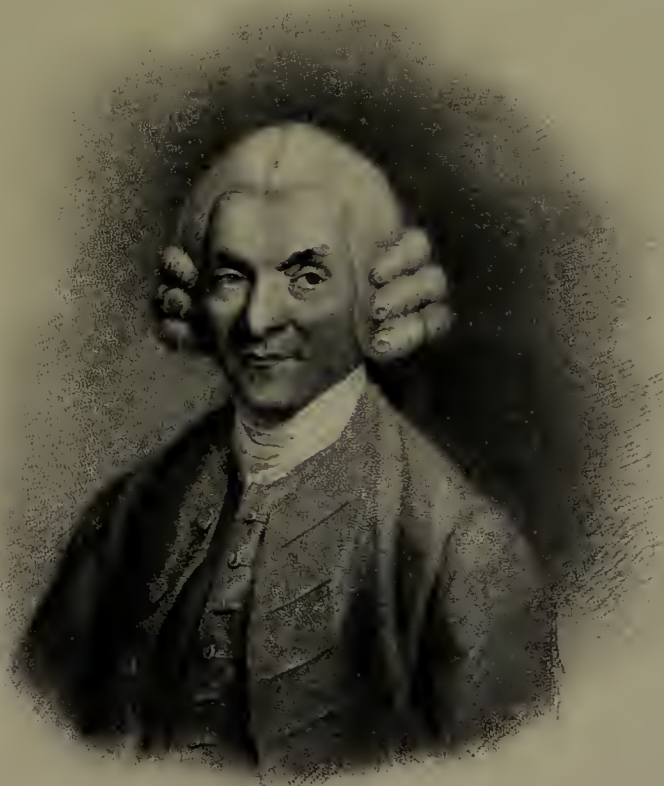


WILLIAM CRUIKSHANK.

THOMAS ARNOLD, M.D., was the author of "Observations on Insanity," published in London in 1782, of which Johnson said, "whoever wishes to see the opinions both of ancients and moderns, collected and illustrated with a variety of curious facts may read Dr. Arnold's very entertaining book."

WILLIAM CRUIKSHANK (1745-1800), was one of the prominent surgeons in the latter part of the 18th century. When

Johnson suffered with sarcocele he was attended by Cruikshank and Pott. Johnson wrote frequently to him of himself with professions of appreciation. In one letter to Cruikshank, containing an account of his case with his symptoms, etc., he closes with these felicitous words: "In return for this account of my health, let me have a good account of yours, and of your prosperity in all your undertakings." In 1783, after the death of



WILLIAM HUNTER.

William Hunter, Johnson wrote the following for Cruikshank to Sir Joshua Reynolds who was then president of the Royal Academy: "The gentleman who waits on you with this, is Mr. Cruikshank, who wishes to succeed his friend, Dr. Hunter, as Professor of Anatomy in the Royal Academy. His qualifications are very generally known, and it adds dignity to the institution that such men are candidates." Cruikshank received the

appointment and also succeeded William Hunter as teacher on anatomy at the Hunterian Museum.

WILLIAM HUNTER (1718-1783), M.D., F.R.S., anatomist, accoucheur, surgeon, and elder brother of John Hunter, was reared in the country, seven miles from Glasgow, and at the age of thirteen entered Glasgow College where he remained for five years. He was appointed for the ministry, but after beginning the study gave it up, and went into medicine. He was a young man of most correct life and habits.

From 1737 to 1740 he worked and studied medicine with Cullen at Hamilton. In 1740 he attended Monro's lectures, in Edinburgh, and went to London in 1741. There he lived with Smellie who had come to London two years before and was practicing as an apothecary and accoucheur. He became assistant to Dr. John Douglas, and entered St. George's Hospital as a surgeon pupil. He also attended lectures in experimental philosophy. In 1746 there was in London a Society of Naval Surgeons which met in a house in Covent Garden to hear Samuel Sharpe lecture on operative surgery. Hunter succeeded Sharpe in his course and added a set of lectures on anatomy. This advertisement appeared in the *London Evening Post*, January 9-12, 1748:

On Monday, the 1st of February, at Five in the
Afternoon,
Will Begin

A COURSE OF ANATOMICAL LECTURES,
To which will be added the Operations of Surgery,
with the application of Bandages.
By WILLIAM HUNTER, Surgeon.

Gentlemen may have an opportunity of learning the Art of Dissecting during the Whole Winter Season, in the same manner as at Paris.

Printed Proposals to be delivered at Mr. Miller's, Bookseller, opposite the end of Katherine Street in the Strand.

From this time his rise was certain. He was admitted to the Corporation of Surgeons of London in 1747. In 1748 he visited Holland and Paris, and paid his respects to Albinus at Leyden. Returning to London, he was joined by his brother John and they began work together. In the same year he was appointed accoucheur of the Middlesex and to the British Lying-in Hospitals; and fortune was smiling upon him. He was made Physician Extraordinary to the Queen, and Professor of Anatomy at the Royal Academy of Arts.

In the early part of his career he practiced both surgery and

midwifery, but he always felt an aversion to the former and eventually gave it up. He is said to have been the first man to attend a queen of England in confinement—Queen Charlotte. To him belongs the credit of having discovered, dissected and described the lymphatic system.

The Hunter brothers made many discoveries in human anatomy in the course of their dissections, which they demonstrated to their classes. Many of these were supposed to have been appropriated later by Alex. Monro, Jr., in Edinburgh, who demonstrated them to his classes as his own. It always seemed strange to Hunter that, after a certain amount of correspondence had passed between some of his pupils and Monro, something that he had demonstrated in London would be rediscovered in Edinburgh. This was particularly noticeable in the cases of his discovery of the lachrymal ducts, of the seminal tubules, and of the anatomy of congenital hernia.

Percival Pott also published a pamphlet on this latter subject after he had visited the Hunters and been shown their dissections, but the name of Hunter does not appear in the pamphlet.

These two brothers were very close, but eventually they quarreled and separated, happily to be reconciled before William died.

William Hunter worked always. For more than thirty years he never left London save to see some patient in the country. He had no country home; he never married; he worked up to the time of his death, and lectured when he was dying. On his deathbed, with his brother back again at his side, he said, "If I had strength enough to hold a pen, I would write how easy and pleasant a thing it is to die."

He gave his mind to his school. His hospital work and his private practice were made to serve the interests of the school. His "Anatomy of the Gravid Uterus," published in 1775, is perhaps the greatest book that has been published on that subject.

In the library of the Royal College of Surgeons is a letter to him from Dr. Johnson thanking Hunter for his promise to present to the King a copy of the "Journey to the Hebrides." He was the friend of Reynolds, Gainsborough, Hogarth and Johnson, and he was very close to the King. His large practice gave him an income which he expended in the interests of science and art. His collection of books alone numbered some

12,000 specimens of the work of almost every press since the invention of printing. Over a hundred years ago the British Museum offered 20,000 pounds for a portion of his collection of coins and medals. He was the consummate type of a cultured gentleman and scientist.

JOHN HUNTER (1728-1793), M.D., F.R.S., was the youngest of ten children, and a brother of William Hunter. He was born at Long Calderwood, near Glasgow. When he was a boy he loved nature and went to her for his instruction. He watched the bees and the ants, and wondered why the leaves changed color in the autumn. He pestered people with questions about things that they did not know. He entered Oxford where he said, "They wanted to make an old woman of me, or that I should stuff Latin and Greek." He would none of it, but thirsted for a knowledge of the more vital things. He wrote to his brother, William, asking leave to come and work under him, and went to London in 1748 and joined his brother in his school of anatomy where he dissected, demonstrated and taught anatomy with an unparalleled zeal. He matriculated in St. George's Hospital as surgeon pupil in 1754.

John was not the refined gentleman that his brother was, but a sturdy rugged type, full of strength. He entered the field of science as a student of human anatomy, thence he passed to natural history and physiology, and from these to medicine and surgery, studying diligently from nature, and mastering each subject as far as possible. With signs of consumption developing, he entered the army as a staff-surgeon, and served with the British fleet. After two years he returned to London, and started practice as a surgeon, in which he continued for thirty years.

He made many discoveries in anatomy. Among these discoveries we may mention his work upon the lachrymal ducts, the seminal tubules, the anatomy of congenital hernia, the lymphatic system, the structure of the placenta, etc. To keep busy he bought two acres of land outside of London where he organized a museum of natural history. Here he kept and studied all sorts of animals. He had bees, fishes, lizards, ducks, dogs, lions and buffalo. All the while, he was studying anatomy, dissecting and practicing surgery. He became surgeon to St. George's Hospital. Then he married, gave lectures on surgery, physiology, anatomy, natural history. Gradually, his practice

increased, but as he took on new duties he never relinquished the old. In 1776 he was appointed Surgeon Extraordinary to the King. During the same year he delivered his famous course of lectures on "Muscular Motion" before the Royal Society.



JOHN HUNTER.

When he was fifty years old he had a large practice which barely enabled him to pay his debts, so great were his expenses. He was always adding to his museum, till he spent no less than 70,000 pounds on it. He lavished on science the money that he earned at the risk of his life. His lot was one of long hours of work with little sleep and relaxation. He wrote indefatigably, and dictated a vast amount to a secretary late at night after the day's work was done. Works which added to his fame were published on "The Veins," "A Treatise on the Venereal Disease," a book of "Observations on the Animal Œconomy." "The

Anatomy of the Whale," and about twenty volumes of manuscript on natural history and surgery. He devised the operation for aneurism (1785); and was appointed Deputy Surgeon General of the Army in 1786. He brought surgery into close touch with the natural sciences; and he taught the art of surgery as it had never been taught before.

John Hunter left a vast amount of work recorded in manuscript form and many volumes of unpublished writings, which after his death fell into the hands of his brother-in-law, Dr. Everard Home. For twenty-three years Home had them in his possession. During that time he delivered lectures and read papers before learned societies of so high a character that he attained to distinction and became Sir Everard Home; and eventually, to destroy the evidences of his dishonesty, burned this immense collection of original manuscripts which represented the life blood of John Hunter.

Sir William MacCormac said in his Hunterian Oration, "Hunter rendered to his art and science greater service than any man had done before him, and his claim to our admiration rests not merely on what he did, but on what he suggested might be done. One cannot but be amazed at the multitude of subjects which engaged his interest and attention, the greatness of his achievements, or the far-reaching influence of so many of his inquiries. His spirit survives in the energy of others who follow in his footsteps, and serves to stimulate every student of biological science. His supreme endeavor was to study life in all its many-sided manifestations."

WILLIAM HEBERDEN (1710-1801), M.D., F.R.C.P., was graduated from Cambridge, and practiced medicine there for ten years, lecturing in the University the while, and then settled in London in 1748. He was the first to describe varicella, and angina pectoris (which was known as Heberden's asthma).

When Samuel Johnson had a paralytic stroke he wrote for Dr. Heberden to be brought.

Heberden had charge of John Hunter's case when he developed angina. He was a scientific observer and a prolific writer. His "Commentaries" are works in which we find an almost incredibly large amount of bedside observations classified and digested. They were compiled from notes written at the bedside of patients, and are based wholly upon what he saw and noted, having resolved for scientific accuracy never to draw upon his memory for any of his material. The great candor, accuracy,

and system discovered in these works have won him a high place in the scientific world.

Heberden was a man of high ideals, of modesty, dignity, and great purity of character. He was above all a scholar, and a lover of truth. He realized that in medicine there were too many theories and not enough facts; and with truly scientific spirit, without prejudice or doctrines, he applied his calm and deliberate mind to the task of recording symptoms of diseases and the effects of remedies.

He died in the ninety-first year of his age, having practiced medicine above sixty years. His sweetness of manner and benevolence raised him to an uncommon height in public esteem. His mind remained active and clear in his last years. Within forty-eight hours of his death he repeated a sentence from an ancient Roman author signifying that "death is kinder to none than those to whom it comes uninvoked."

Dr. MUDGE was a well-known surgeon of Plymouth. He entertained Reynolds and Johnson when they visited Plymouth. He was not more distinguished, according to Boswell, for quickness of parts and rarity of knowledge, than loved and esteemed for his amiable manners. When Johnson suffered with sarcocele he wrote to Mudge, describing his symptoms, and imploring his advice concerning the operation which Cruikshank had recommended: "my conviction of your skill, and my belief in your friendship, determines me to entreat your opinion and advice."

Dr. AMYAT was a physician in London, but his name does not appear among the members of the Royal College of Physicians at that time. While Johnson was traveling with Sir Joshua Reynolds in Devonshire, he met Dr. Amyat at one of the rests where he was entertained. Being shown through the garden, Johnson was asked if he was a botanist, to which he replied, alluding to nearsightedness, that if he would become a botanist he must first turn himself into a reptile.

Sir PAUL JODRELL, M.D., F.R.C.P., was a younger brother of Richard Paul Jodrell, whose plays were often erroneously ascribed to his medical brother. He was a member of the Royal College of Physicians, and physician to the London Hospital. In 1786 he went to India as physician to the Nabob of Arcot, who had applied to George III to send him a physician. The president of the College of Physicians, Sir George Baker, being

consulted, recommended Dr. Jodrell who received the honor of knighthood and sailed forthwith for India.

Sir ROBERT SIBBALD (1641-1712), M.D., was the Founder of the Royal College of Physicians at Edinburgh. He was a celebrated Scottish antiquarian. His "Remains," containing his autobiography, was published in 1837. The autobiography alone had been published earlier. In this latter he discovers himself to be a most candid man. He relates how that the Duke of Perth, then Chancellor of Scotland, urged him to embrace the Roman Catholic faith. He long resisted, until one day he felt himself instantaneously convinced, and with tears in his eyes rushed into the Duke's arms and embraced the ancient faith. He was devout and steadfast until one winter he accompanied his Grace and family to London, and lived in his household. Here the rigid fasting, prescribed by the Church, he found disposed him to reconsider his conversion, and he returned to the old Scottish Church. As a Catholic he became a protestant against dictary restrictions, and his apostacy was effected through the flesh pots of protestantism.

MARTIN WALL, M.D., F.R.C.P., practiced medicine at Oxford where he was a physician to the Radcliffe Infirmary. When Johnson visited Oxford in 1784, he engaged in a discussion with Dr. Wall, over their tea cups, in which he said that it was wonderful how little good Radcliffe's traveling fellowships had done; he knew nothing that had been imported by them, yet many additions to our medical knowledge might be got in foreign countries. "Inoculation," said Johnson, "has saved more lives than war destroys; and the cures performed by the Peruvian bark are innumerable. But it is in vain to send our traveling physicians to France, and Italy, and Germany, for all that is known there is known here; I'd send them out of Christendom; I'd send them among barbarous nations."

LORD TRIMLESTOWN was descended from an ancient Irish line. He had studied physic and prescribed gratis for the poor. Concerning Sir Sibbald's autobiography it was Trimlestown who remarked that "as the ladies love to look to see themselves in a glass, so a man likes to see himself in his journal."

JOHN RADCLIFFE (1650-1714), M.D., was one of the most striking personalities of this period. He was brusque and successful, arrogant and honest, witty and eminent. He went to school at Oxford, where he was graduated in arts and medicine. In his medical studies he interested himself particularly in the



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JOHN RADCLIFFE.

things that had immediate utility. His great success in acquiring a large practice was due to his devotion to the practical. He ignored tradition, which played so important a part in medical practice and was guided by his own common sense, combined with a smattering of medical learning and a natural gift of observation and insight.

Radcliffe began practice at Oxford, but soon moved to London where he developed an immense clientèle. He became physician to Queen Anne, whom he offended by telling when she thought that she was sick, that she was in as good health as any woman breathing. He refused to become physician to King William on account of political principles, though the King continued to consult him. When called to see the dropsical William the Second, he told him that he would not have his Majesty's two legs for his three kingdoms, and William dismissed him.

Radcliffe arose to a high position in his profession because of his shrewd penetration and experience rather than because of his learning. He was independent and original. He attended Queen Mary in her last illness (smallpox), and was blamed because she did not recover. He was also blamed for not saving the life of Queen Anne whom he did not attend.

His next door neighbor was the artist, Sir Godfrey Kneller, with whom he quarreled over a partition gate. He notified Sir Godfrey that "he might do anything he pleased with the gate so that he did but refrain from painting it," to which Sir Godfrey replied that he "could take anything from Radcliffe but his physick."

Radcliffe was a man whose life was not an inspiration for the best in the practice of medicine, yet he was eminently successful from a business standpoint. He was not a man of learning yet he made great bequests to Oxford Universities, founding the Radcliffe Library, the Radcliffe Infirmary, the Radcliffe Observatory, and the Radcliffe Traveling Fellowships. Garth said, "for Radcliffe to found a library was as if an eunuch should found a seraglio."

He was distinguished for his many acts of bounty, and his great sagacity. Retiring from the practice of medicine in his old age he was elected to Parliament, but declined to be made a knight.

Upon his death he was buried at Oxford. It was fitting that he should be laid to rest surrounded by that classic city embellished by so many institutions bearing his name.

JOHN ARBUTHNOT (1667-1735), M.D., F.R.C.P., was born at Arbuthnot, Scotland, and attended school at Aberdeen where he graduated in medicine. He went to London with little money, and commenced his career by teaching mathematics. Soon after the appearance of his "Essay on the Usefulness of Mathematical Learning," 1700, he began the practice of medicine. He was an attractive personality, a man of much learning, and succeeded well in practice. He was physician to Queen Anne. After the Queen's recovery from a serious illness Gay thus celebrated Dr. Arbuthnot in his prolog to the "Sheppard's Week:"

"A skillful leach (so God him speed)
 They say had wrought this blessed end.
 This leach Arbuthnot was yclept,
 Who many a night not once had slept;
 But watched our gracious Sovereign still:
 For who could rest while she was ill?
 Oh! mayst thou henceforth sweetly sleep.
 Sheer swains! oh, sheer your softest sheep
 To swell his couch; for well I ween,
 He saved the realm, who saved the Queen.
 Quoth I, please God, I'll hie with glee
 To Court, this Arbuthnot to see."

Arbuthnot secured many honors from the profession, from the sovereign, and from the people. He was the intimate friend of Pope, Gay, Prior, and Dean Swift. He wrote "The History of John Bull," and many other papers of wit, and philosophy. His poem, "Know Thyself" has been regarded as the finest example of philosophical poetry in our language. He was a prolific writer, and at the same time he attained to eminence as a physician. Of him Johnson said, speaking of eminent artists of Queen Anne's time, that, "Dr. Arbuthnot was the first man among them. He being the most universal genius, an excellent physician, a man of deep learning, and a man of much humor."

Lord Orrery said of him, "although he was justly celebrated for wit and learning, there was an excellency in his character more amiable than in all his other qualifications, the excellence of his heart. He was equal to any of his contemporaries in humor and vivacity, and superior to most men in acts of humanity and benevolence. No man exceeded him in the moral duties of life." Thackeray called him, "one of the wisest, wittiest, most accomplished and gentlest of mankind."

JOHN ASH (1723-1798), M.D., F.R.C.P., was a learned and

ingenious physician of London. He procured his degree from Trinity College, Oxford, and practiced at Birmingham, where he founded the General Hospital. He moved to London and enjoyed much success. He was Hunterian orator in 1790, and the founder of a social and literary club in London called the Eumelian Club (from *eumélias*, though it was warmly contended that it should have had the Latin name and be called the *Praxinean*).

PERCIVAL POTT (1749-1787), Surgeon of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, attended Johnson for sarcocele with Cruikshank. He was one of the most eminent of London surgeons. He attained to eminence through his work on hernia, spinal disease, and diseases of the bones and joints. In 1771 he published his complete "Chirurgical Works."

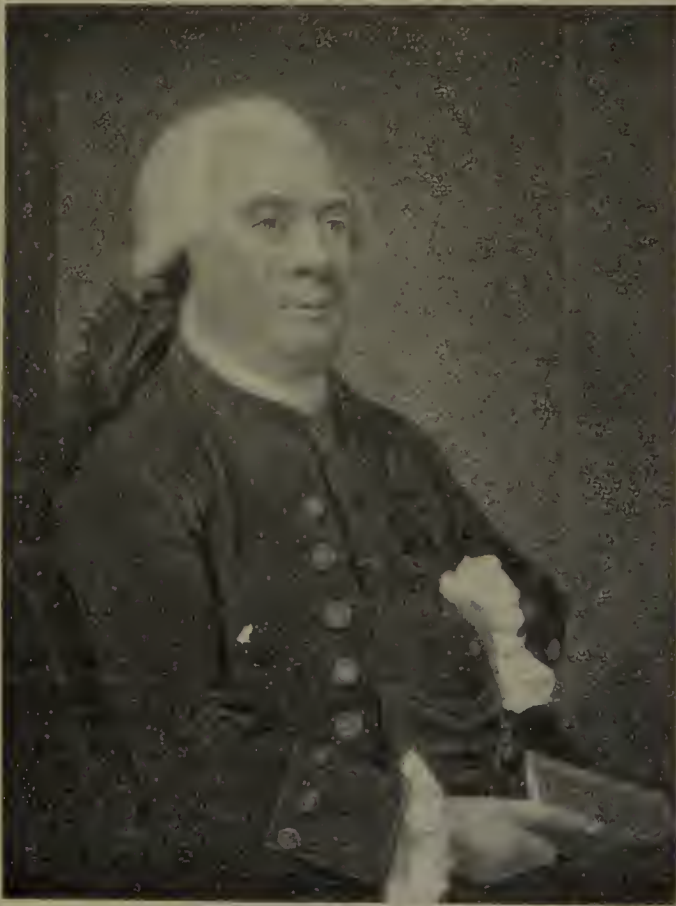
Sir GEORGE BAKER (1721-1809), M.D., F.R.C.P., a profound scholar and celebrated physician, was one of the ornaments of his profession. He was a man of much classical learning, of a philosophical mind and sound judgment. He attained to eminence as a London practitioner, and had accorded to him all of the honors which his profession could give. He was physician to the Queen and to George the Third, and was created a baronet in 1776. He was versed in the whole literature of medicine from the remotest antiquity. His generosity and kindness endeared him to all. He was the author of medical treatises and some choice Latin verse.

WILLIAM BARROWBY, M.D., F.R.C.P., a graduate of Oxford and a London practitioner, is mentioned by Boswell only to allow Dr. Johnson to relate the following anecdote of him: "He was very fond of swine's flesh. One day when he was eating it he said, that he wished he was a Jew, because then he should have the pleasure of eating his favorite meat with the pleasure of sinning at the same time." He died in 1751.

Dr. RICHARD BROCKLESBY was born in Ireland in 1722. He studied medicine at Edinburgh and on the continent, and practiced in London with much success. Before settling down to practice he was physician to the British army for five years. He was the friend and physician of Johnson, of Wilkes, and of Edmund Burke. He was a man of great kindness and generosity. When Burke was in need of help, Dr. Brocklesby gave him the one thousand pounds for immediate use, which he had already bequeathed to him in his will. He contributed a number of papers on scientific subjects, and on "The Music

of the Ancients." He was a neighbor of Johnson and a man of wide information, much reading, good spirits, and a lively conversationalist.

Dr. Brocklesby attended Johnson in his last illness. His correspondence with Johnson shows much admiration and affection. He was a member of the "club," and came well within the scope of Johnson's definition of a club in his dic-



RICHARD BROCKLESBY.

tionary as being "An assemblage of good fellows meeting under certain conditions."

When Johnson was broken in health and had but little money, at the age of seventy-five, Dr. Brocklesby offered him one hundred pounds a year for the rest of his life. As Johnson lay upon his death bed, he asked Brocklesby if he could

recover. "Give me a direct answer." Upon being told that he could not, he declared that he would take no more physic.

Dr. ALEXANDER MONRO, of Edinburgh, was consulted by Boswell for Johnson. This was probably Alexander Monro II. The Monros were descended from John Monro, a Scotch army surgeon who settled in Edinburgh in 1700, and who was one of the incorporators of the Edinburgh Medical School.

Alexander I. (1607-1767), was an anatomist who lectured for thirty-eight years in Edinburgh. He was the author of



ALEXANDER MONRO, *Primus*.

"Anatomy of the Bones." His son Donald was a military surgeon in the British army, and practitioner of eminence in London.

Alexander II., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. (1733-1817), another son, became a still greater anatomist and teacher than his father. He was appointed professor of anatomy at the age of twenty-one, and lectured on anatomy for fifty years. During that time he was the most eminent man in the medical school, and stood at the head of his profession in Scotland,

Alexander III. succeeded his father and continued to lecture for thirty-eight years, until 1846.

The three Monros lectured continuously in the Edinburgh school for one hundred and twenty-six years.

SAMUEL MUSGRAVE, M.D., F.R.C.P., (1732-1780), took the doctor's degree at Leyden, where he published his academic address entitled "Dissertation Inauguralis de Medicina Empirica." Besides his work on Euripides, he was the author of "Dissertations on Grecian Mythology," etc. We find him dining



ALEXANDER MONRO, *Secundus*.

with Johnson, at Sir Joshua Reynolds', where he read his new poem, "The Project," and heard it unfavorably criticised by Johnson. He was a man of much classic learning, but failed in practical education. He secured a Radcliffe traveling scholarship and studied in Holland and France.

Musgrave devoted much time to the study of Euripides, and became the greatest authority of his time upon this author. The University of Oxford purchased his manuscripts and notes upon Euripides for two hundred pounds. He was Gulstonian Lec-

turer and Censor of the College in 1779. As a physician in London he failed utterly, and died in poverty, after an earnest struggle for success, at the age of forty-eight years.

RICHARD WARREN, M.D., F.R.C.P., (1731-1797), was physician to George III., and enjoyed a practice so large and remunerative that when he died he left one hundred and fifty thousand pounds to his family. He was a shrewd, practical man like Radcliffe, but a man of culture and broad learning. He enjoyed the friendship of such distinguished men as Dr. Johnson and Lord North, and attended Johnson in his last illness.

THOMAS LAWRENCE, M.D., F.R.C.P., (1711-1783), it was to whom Boswell refers as "The learned and worthy Dr. Lawrence, whom Dr. Johnson respected and loved as his physician." It was to Lawrence that Johnson wrote for information in the case of Dr. Menis against the Royal Infirmary. He studied anatomy under Frank Nicholls, whom he succeeded as lecturer upon anatomy at Oxford. He also lectured on anatomy in London, and was elected president of the Royal College for seven consecutive years. He was held in esteem attained to by few among his colleagues, yet as a physician he did not succeed in developing a practice. His medical knowledge and skill were of the highest order, and were recognized by his confreres, but the public failed to discover his talents. Sir John Hawkins said of him, "He was a man of whom in respect of his piety, learning, and skill in his profession, it may be almost said the world was not worthy, inasmuch as it suffered his talents for the whole of his life in a great measure to remain unemployed, and himself to end his days in sorrow and obscurity. *He was above the arts by which popularity is acquired.*"

Johnson said of him, "Lawrence is one of the best men whom I have known. He was a man of strict piety and profound learning, but little skilled in the knowledge of life or manners, and died without even having enjoyed the recognition he so justly deserved." Upon the death of Lawrence's wife, Johnson addressed to him, in his bereavement, one of the most graceful and chaste letters which our literature possesses. Among Lawrence's contributions to medical literature are a "Life of Harvey" and a "Life of Frank Nicholls."

FRANK NICHOLLS, M.D., F.R.C.P. (1609-1778), was an anatomist and lecturer upon anatomy at Oxford and London. His original knowledge and charm of delivery attracted attention to his lectures from far and near, and he was one of the

first to study and teach minute anatomy. He was one of the most attractive personalities that ever taught this subject, and a man of great eminence. Upon the death of Sir Hans Sloane he was appointed physician to George II. Lord Bute showed such a partiality to Scotchmen that he turned out Dr. Nicholls from the office to make room for one of his countrymen who, according to Johnson, "was very low in his profession."

When dining with Dr. Butler, Johnson showed his familiarity with the writing of Dr. Nicholls, whom, he said, would not attend a patient if his mind was not at ease, for he believed that the effect of the medicine would be hindered. He reported the case of Dr. Nicholls once having attended a tradesman, upon whom his medicine seemed to have no effect. He inquired of the man's wife if his affairs were not in a bad way. Upon receiving a negative reply, he continued his administrations, but without success. When finally the situation was made clear by the wife discovering that her husband's affairs *were* in a bad way.

Nicholls married Elizabeth, a daughter of Dr. Mead. He was the inventor of corroded anatomical preparations. He was the author of "De Anima Medica," and many other works upon anatomy and physiology. He also wrote "The Petition of the Unborn Babes to the Censors of the Royal College of Physicians."

JOHN TURTON, M.D., F.R.C.P. (1736-1806), had a traveling fellowship from Oxford, and settled in practice after returning from Leyden, where his professional advancement was rapid. He attended Goldsmith in his last illness. When Goldsmith lay on his death bed Dr. Turton said to him, "Your pulse is in greater disorder than it should be, from the degree of fever which you have; is your mind at ease?" Goldsmith assured him it was not.

He soon became physician to the King and Queen and the recipient of many honors. At his death he left a large fortune, and his widow caused to be erected at Brasted Church a white marble sarcophagus, marked by a serpent coiled round about a staff, bearing the legend—

Eminently skilled in the Medical Art,

He saved or lengthened the lives of others.

His own, alas! this marble tells us no art could save.

WILLIAM BUTTER, M.D. (1726-1805), practiced at Derby till he acquired a moderate fortune and then moved to Lon-

don. He was the author of a number of treatises, and became a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians.

While still practicing at Derby, he had a hot discussion with Johnson. We find him referred to by Boswell: "On



Wednesday, Sep. 17, Dr. Butter, physician at Derby, drank tea with us, and it was settled that Dr. Johnson and I should go on Friday and dine with him." Upon arriving at Derby, Dr. Butter showed the two travellers about the town, visiting the porcelain works and other places of interest. They

dined with Dr. Butter, and the conversation ran much on medical matters. (*Vide* Nicholls.)

GEORGE CHEYNE, M.D. (1671-1743), was a Scottish physician, practicing in London. He wrote a number of works on medical and other subjects. Of his works Johnson mentions "Essay of Health and Long Life" (1724), "The English Malady, or A Treatise of Nervous Diseases of All Kinds" (1733). At one time Cheyne weighed thirty-two stone, and to improve his condition became a vegetarian. He also gave up wine and liquors, but allowed himself coffee, green tea, and "sometimes a glass of soft small cyder." He is "The learned, philosophical, and pious Dr. Cheyne."

Johnson advised Boswell to read Cheyne's book on "Health" and his "English Malady," which dealt with hypochondria and melancholy. "Read Cheyne's English Malady but do not let him teach you a foolish notion that melancholy is a proof of acuteness," says Johnson. We have the note of his consultation with Sir Hans Sloane and Richard Mead in the case of Bishop Burnet.

MARK AKENSIDE, M.D., F.R.C.P. (1721-1770), was the son of Mark Akenside, a butcher, of Newcastle. He received an injury in early life which made him a cripple. Akenside arose from his humble position to the enjoyment of recognition by the best of England's culture. He studied medicine in Edinburgh and Leyden, where he took his doctor's degree, but proceeded indifferently in the practice of his profession in London.

He was a man of splendid character and ideals, but rather given to controversy and study of the ancients. It was in one of his controversies in a coffee-house that an opponent came at him with this statement: "Doctor," said he, "after all you have said, my opinion of the profession of physic is this: the ancients endeavored to make it a science and failed; and the moderns to make it a trade, and have succeeded."

He arose to considerable eminence and recognition in the medical world, being physician to St. Thomas' and to Christ's Hospital, physician to the Queen, and Harveian orator, but these honors were largely in recognition of his other talents rather than of his medical attainments which did not even earn him a livelihood. Johnson wrote his life and gave it as his opinion that "Akenside was a superior poet both to Gray and Mason." His poem, "Pleasures of the Imagination" is the best known of his works and has always been highly esteemed as a fine example

of dignified verse, although Johnson confessed that he could not read it through. It was first published anonymously, and one Rolt, upon its appearance in Dublin, "acknowledged" himself as its author. Upon this representation he enjoyed fame and the distinction of being dined as "the ingenious Mr. Rolt." When



MARK AKENSIDE

it was observed that his conversation did not discover much of the poetic afflatus it was recalled that it required wine to awaken others of the great poets, but no brand of wine could be found which made Rolt seem equal to "The Pleasures of the Imagination." Later Akenside published the poem with his own

name. Among his other poems worthy of mention are "Patriotism," "Inscription for a Monument to Shakespere," and "Inscription for a Statue of Chaucer at Woodstock."

It is in the life of Akenside that Johnson makes the statement that, "A physician in a great city seems to be the play-



thing of fortune; his degree of reputation is, for the most part, casual: they that employ him know not his excellence; they that reject him know not his deficiency."

ROBERT JAMES, M.D. (1702-1776), had his early schooling at Lichfield where he was a school fellow with Johnson. The

two always remained close friends and companions. Johnson once said of him that, "No man brings more mind to his profession." He published in three volumes a "Medical Dictionary with a History of Drugs" in 1743. In this work he was assisted by Johnson, who wrote the "Dedication to Dr. Mead." The dedication to Mead, written by Johnson and signed by James, is a fine example of the elegant literary style of the period. It reads,

"TO DR. MEAD.

"SIR—That the Medical Dictionary is dedicated to you, is to be



JOHN COAKLEY LETTSOM, M.&L.L.D.

F.R.S. F.A.S. F.L.S. &c. &c. &c.

imputed only to your reputation for superior skill in those sciences which I have endeavored to explain and facilitate; and you are, therefore, to consider this address, if it be agreeable to you, as one of the rewards of merit; and if otherwise, as one of the inconveniences of eminence.

"However you shall receive it, my design cannot be disappointed, because this public appeal to your judgment will show that I do not

found my hopes of approbation upon the ignorance of my readers, and that I fear his censure least whose knowledge is most extensive.

"I am, Sir, your most obedient and humble servant,
"R. JAMES."

James was a man of considerable attainments, and a voluminous writer. He knew much of drugs, and would have been always esteemed had he not patented his celebrated "fever powders," and falsified their specifications.

Boswell and Johnson, traveling together, read in a newspaper of Dr. James' death. The biographer thought that the death of an old school fellow and close companion in London would have affected Johnson much, but he only said, "Ah! poor Jamy."

JOHN COAKLEY LETTSOM, M.D., F.R.S. (1744-1815), came to England from the island of Little Vandyke, and was placed under the guardianship of Mr. Fothergill, a Quaker preacher, and brother of the well-beloved John Fothergill, M.D. He studied medicine at Edinburgh under Cullen, at Paris and Leyden, and settled in London to practice. Enjoying the patronage of Fothergill and the Society of Friends, he soon won his way to success, and for many years had the largest practice in London. He is best known as a man of high ideals and benevolence. As a philanthropist his name is found associated with nearly every measure for the public good. He was on terms of intimacy with the eminent men of his day, and enjoyed recognition by most of the learned societies. In America he was an honorary member of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Philadelphia. His writing was voluminous. Besides a large number of contributions on technical subjects, he wrote upon medical history and philosophy. He wrote a life of John Fothergill in three volumes. His own life was written by Pettigrew.

We find him described by Boswell dining with the Dillys in the Poultry in 1776. On this occasion there were present Johnson and Arthur Lee (the American who was later minister of the United States to the Court of Madrid, and whom Boswell says was an old companion of his when Lee studied physic in Edinburgh).

Lettsom was the subject of the following verses by Sir M. Martin:

"Such swarms of patients do to me apply,
Did I not practice some would surely die;
'Tis true, I purge some, bleed some, sweat some,
Admit I expedite a few, still many call

J. Coakley Lettsom."

In the "History of the Medical Society of the State of New York" (Walsh: *New York State Journal of Medicine*, May, 1906) we find the following in the transactions of that society for July 8, 1800:

"Dr. Hosack proposed Dr. Letson, of London, as an honorary member of the Society."

And at the next meeting the following:

"The Secretary was requested to have the certificate of Dr. Letson handsomely written upon vellum and presented at the next quarterly meeting for inspection."

DOCTOR MENIS was a physician of Aberdeen, concerning whose interests Boswell consulted Johnson. In a translation of the Charter of the Royal Infirmary in Aberdeen, the managers had rendered the same phrase in one place "Physician" and in another, where it applied to Dr. Menis, "Doctor of Medicine." Dr. Menis protested against this, but his protest not receiving recognition, he brought an action for damages, claiming that the translation was so framed as to make it seem that he was "not a physician," and consequently it damaged his practice. Boswell defended the Infirmary, and his father, sitting as judge of the Court of Sessions, dismissed the case. (A sort of family affair with the family on the Infirmary side.) Menis appealed, and Boswell wrote to Johnson to secure him some help in the case. Johnson wrote a note to Dr. Lawrence, president of the Royal College, and out of his reply evolved the following for Boswell's aid: "I consulted this morning the President of the College of Physicians, who says, that with us, Doctor of Physick (we do not say Doctor of Medicine) is the highest title that a practiser of physick can have; that Doctor implies not only Physician, but teacher of physick; that every Doctor is legally a Physician, but no man not a *Doctor* can practice physick but by license peculiarly granted. The Doctorat is a license of itself. It seems to us but a very slender cause of prosecution."

JOHN ARMSTRONG, M.D. (1709-1779), was a London physician, a poet and friend of Smollett. He wrote "The Art of Preserving Health," a poem in four books, published in 1744. He was a friend and advisor of John Hunter and distinguished himself both as a physician and poet. His earlier poetic efforts were not well received, but his later efforts placed him among the poets of the 18th century. "Benevolence" and "Taste" were two of his noteworthy poems. The poem "Over-indulgence in Wine"

describes in rounded measures the picture of a phenomenon, thankfully less prevalent now than then, in which is portrayed the fate of those who

“Try Circe’s arts; and in the tempting bowl
Of poisoned nectar sweet oblivion swill.”

His poem on “The Pestilence” describes graphically and forcefully the plague in England in the 15th century:

“In heaps they fell, and oft the bed, they say,
The sickening, dying, and the dead contained.”

The poet tells how that

“To Heaven with suppliant rites they sent their prayers;
And Heaven heard them not.”

SIR RICHARD MANNINGHAM, M.D., L.L.B., F.R.S., F.R.C.P. (— 1759), a London physician and friend of Lord Scarsdale, was one of the eminent accouchers of this period. When Johnson visited Kiddelstone, the magnificent seat of Lord Scarsdale, he was accompanied through many of the rooms by Dr. Manningham, who was visiting his Lordship. It was on this occasion, in reply to the statement that the proprietor of all this must be happy, that Johnson retorted, “Nay, Sir, all this excludes but one evil—poverty.”

Manningham was one of the pioneers, with Smellie and Sandys, in making midwifery a dignified part of the practice of medicine in England. He was knighted by George I.

An idea of the benighted state of obstetrics in his time, may be gotten from one of the most important of his publications, “The Plague no Contagious Disorder,” published anonymously in 1744, and reprinted with revisions and the author’s name in 1755 under the title, “A Discourse Concerning the Plague and Pestilential Fevers, plainly proving that the general productive causes of all Plagues and Pestilence are from some fault in the air, or from ill and unwholesome Diet.”

WILLIAM CULLEN, M.D. (1712-1790), was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland, and became a barber. Later he was an apothecary, and after studying medicine, he acted as a ship’s surgeon on a merchant vessel, and then went into practice in the parish of Schotts. Here he fell under the favorable notice of the Duke of Argyle, through whom he removed to Hamilton, where he continued his practice. It was here that William Hunter came to live with him, and share his practice, when neither had repu-

tation or means. From 1737 to 1740 these two men worked together in the uphill practice of medicine in a sparsely settled country district, both eager to improve themselves in their art. To further their ambitions they agreed that one should carry on the practice for their mutual benefit in the winter, while the other should be allowed to study in some medical school. Cullen selected Edinburgh, and was able to graduate in 1740. He continued to improve himself, and in 1746 became professor of



Chemistry in Glasgow College. In 1751 he was appointed Professor of Medicine. In 1756 he was invited to the Chair of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh. Later he became Professor of Medicine. In Edinburgh he arose to eminence, and became one of the most celebrated Scottish physicians.

Cullen was learned in advance of his time, a lecturer of magnetism, and a teacher of power. He was the friend and

physician of David Hume. He was a man of much charity, and he supported the widow of Robert Burns, and published Burns' poems. After a life of usefulness and earnest devotion to his profession, at the age of seventy-eight he died, as he had been born, in poverty.

He was the author of a "Physiology" which was translated into French, German and Latin. His "Practice of Physic" was a standard work of the time. His "Nosology" was by far the best system that had appeared. He also wrote a large volume on *materia medica*, which was translated into several languages. His treatise on "Water in the Treatment of Fevers" was much in advance of his time.

Although Dr. Cullen did not see Johnson in his last illness, he was consulted in his behalf through Mr. Boswell, who applied to "three of the eminent physicians, who had Chairs in our celebrated school in Edinburgh, Doctors Cullen, Hope and Munro." To each of these Boswell wrote, that "Dr. Johnson has been very ill for some time, and in a letter of anxious apprehension writes me, 'Ask your physicians about my case.' This you see is not authority for a regular consultation, but I have no doubt of your readiness to give your advice to a man so eminent, and who, in his 'Life of Garth,' has paid your profession this just and elegant compliment: 'I believe every man has found in physicians great liberality and dignity of sentiment, very prompt effusions of beneficence, and willingness to exert a lucrative art, where there is no hope of lucre.'" Boswell then goes on to describe Johnson's "catarrhus cough; his spasmodic asthma; his rest at night, secured only by means of laudanum and syrup of poppies; and the œdematous tumors of the legs, and dropsy, remedied by vinegar of squilles."

JOHN MANNING, M.D., F.R.C.P. (1730-1806), graduated at Leyden in 1758 and practiced at Norwich, where he was one of the organizers of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. He enjoyed a large practice, and died much beloved by all who knew him. Upon his monument at St. Gregory's it is said, "His penetration into character was keen but tempered with the manners of a gentleman; he was severe only to hypocrisy and vice."

DR. JOSEPH PRIESTLEY, scientist and theologian, was born at Berstal-Fieldhead, near Leeds, in 1733. He devoted his life to science, to the inculcating of moral truths, and to the combating of bigotry and ignorance. He was the discoverer of oxygen. He loved his fellow men as strongly as he loved the truth. A

Birmingham mob, inspired by the clergy of the Church of England, who harangued them as "fellow churchmen," wrecked his house, destroyed his valuable library, scientific instruments, and notes and papers, containing the results of a lifetime of arduous scientific research. This mob would have taken the life of this good and gentle man, could they have laid hands upon him.

He was driven into exile by the doctrine of hate and superstition, and devoted his remaining years to the expounding of a doctrine of love and truth. He emigrated to America in 1804 and settled at Northumberland in Pennsylvania. His "Theological and Miscellaneous Works" were published in twenty-six volumes (1817-32). In all, his published works comprise between seventy and eighty volumes.

Upon the famous English expedition for scientific discovery which sailed in 1772 under Captain Cook, the scientific authority chosen to accompany it was Dr. Joseph Priestley. He had been invited to this expedition by Sir Joseph Banks, President of the Royal Society. However, the clergy of Oxford and Cambridge objected, because Priestley's views of the Trinity were considered unsound. Dr. Andrew D. White says, "It was evidently suspected that this might vitiate his astronomical observations," and after the experience with Galileo and Copernicus the Church did not care to take chances with a man who was searching for truths which confound some of its superstitions.

It may be of interest to observe that Johnson contributed something to the glory of this voyage by writing a couplet in Latin to Sir Joseph Banks' goat, a translation of which is as follows:

"In fame scarce second to the muse of Jove,
This Goat, who twice the world has travelled round,
Deserving both his master's care and love,
Ease and perpetual pasture now has found."

Chemistry always interested Dr. Johnson. Boswell tells us that he attended some experiments that were being made by a physician at Salisbury with "The new kind of air" (oxygen). During the experiments it was very natural that frequent mention was made of Dr. Priestley. With knitted brow, Dr. Johnson asked, "Why do we hear so much of Dr. Priestley?" Upon being informed by the experimenter that it was "because we are indebted to him for these important discoveries," he agreed that

it was very well that "every man should have the honor that he merits."

At this date and under the present state of enlightenment, it is difficult for us to realize all that this good man suffered at the hands of the Church for no other offense than searching for the great truths in nature, thinking independently and with mind unhampered by the superstitions which have ever been offensive to the intelligent, and denying those parts of dogmatic religion which at the present day would bring him into harmony with the most of the enlightened.

Boswell, not content with reciting all that Johnson might have said against Priestley, in a note of his own launches forth his own invective against his "pernicious doctrines." Boswell says, "I do not wonder at Dr. Johnson's displeasure when the name of Dr. Priestley was mentioned, for I know of no writer who has been suffered to publish more pernicious doctrines."

He then proceeds to lay at his door three sins. He accuses him first of "materialism" (that is denying the existence of witches and devils and believing in the materiality of the air and the sun and the stars); secondly, he accuses him of supporting the so-called doctrine of "necessity" (that is, that events follow certain fixed laws and are not subversive to the whim of any being); and, thirdly, he accuses him of "believing that the future world will not be materially different from this" (no streets of gold, no white robed hosts, no great effulgent throne) — "which pernicious doctrine," says the garrulous Mr. Boswell, "would sink wretched mortals into despair."

The verbose Boswell then proceeds to cite a special passage from the writings of Dr. Priestley to illustrate the author's depravity. This passage, which is offered as evidence against Priestley, the churchly Boswell suggests is so absurd and impious that it might have been used in the defense of the men who were prosecuted for burning Priestley's house. I quote it in full because it is so humane and simple and so much at variance with the Christian views of that time. This is the sinful passage:

"I cannot, as a necessitarian, hate any man; because I consider him a being, in all respects, just what God has made him to be; and also as doing with respect to me nothing but what he was expressly assigned and appointed to do, God being the only cause, and men nothing more than the instruments in his hands to execute all his pleasure."

Thus is illustrated that the heresies of yesterday become

the doctrines of to-day, and those whom the Church now persecutes for heresy may have monuments erected to them on the morrow, for it shall be discovered that they are in the vanguard of civilization.

Upon the death of Priestley in 1804 the great naturalist, M. Cuvier, delivered a memorial address before the National Institute of France. Professor Huxley made the address on the occasion of the unveiling of the statue of Priestley in the town of Birmingham. Of all that has been written and said of Priestley, these two addresses stand out most clearly as tributes to a great man.

ARCHIBALD CAMERON, M.D., belonged to the ancient family of Cameron of Lochiel, and was a brother of the chief of that clan. He was an honest and much beloved man, who through a sense of duty took up arms for the House of Stewart in 1745. Giving up his profession in 1746, he visited the Continent, and was honored with the rank of Colonel in both the French and Spanish armies. George the Second approved of his execution when he was found guilty of rebellion, and he was accordingly executed. Johnson bursts out in an invective against the King as unrelenting and barbarous in not showing clemency to this man.

RICHARD MEAD, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. (1673-1754), was the son of a non-conformist minister, and received his early education under his father. At sixteen he was placed under Graevius at Utrecht. He studied the classics and philosophy and at nineteen went to Leyden. Boerhaave was his fellow student, and the two became life-long friends. He later studied at Padua, where he took the degree of doctor of philosophy and physic. At the age of twenty-three he returned to England, and entered upon the practice of medicine at Stepney in the house where he was born. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1794 and moved to London upon his appointment as physician to St. Thomas' Hospital. For many years he delivered lectures on anatomy in the hall of the Company of Surgeons.

Mead was a man of much culture, and broad learning, polished and elegant, and in every sense a gentleman and scholar. It was to him that Radcliffe, just before his death, presented his gold-headed cane, which was successively carried by Radcliffe, Mead, Askew, Pitcairn, and Baillie, until it found its present resting place in a case in the Royal College.

Radcliffe's admiration of Mead began when he happened upon him and found him reading Hippocrates in the original. "What! my young friend, do you read Hippocrates in the original language? Well, take my word for it, when I am dead and gone you will occupy the throne of physic in this great town." It is said that Mead replied, "No, sir; when you are gone, your empire, like Alexander's, will be divided



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RICHARD MEAD

among many successors." However, Mead did become the successor of Radcliffe to the most eminent position in London practice. His reputation spread all over Europe, and for more than forty years he was the most conspicuous figure in English medicine. He enjoyed not only the pleasures of scientific observation and learning, of literary fame and the friendship of the most distinguished persons, but also the

emoluments of a large practice. The wealthy sought him, and the poor he aided not only with his medical skill, but also with the money which he had received from the rich. He was greatly beloved, respected and honored.

Mead advanced the cause of medicine and humanity by many services. He came upon the scene of scientific activities just after the great London plague in 1665 which swept off more than 100,000 from that city. Aid in these great plagues had been sought at the hands of the Church. The churchmen of England were given to the study of the Hebrew fathers, and the Christian theological theory of disease still held sway. This particular plague was attributed to Divine wrath against the Prophaning of the Sabbath." (See Buckle's "History of Civilization in England.") It was Mead who showed that it was certainly sin that caused the plague, but that it was sanitary sin and not sin against any theological dogma. He wrote a short discourse concerning "Pestilential Contagion, and the Methods to be Used to Prevent It."

Mead was the author of the first quarantine regulations adopted in England, which he secured by demonstrating to the Lords of the Regency (1719) that the plague was a contagious disease, and thus another victory for humanity was secured against the open hostility of the Church of England.

He experimented upon condemned criminals, with the inoculation of small-pox. He advocated inoculation for small-pox three-quarters of a century before Jenner's time, and successfully vaccinated the two princesses, Amelia and Caroline. He was physician to the good Queen Anne, and upon the accession of George II. became his physician. Mead conducted physiological experiments, and wrote many medical essays. His highly scientific quality of mind is shown in the fact that in a second edition of his works he altered many of his former opinions, and acknowledged that "in some facts he had been mistaken, and in some conclusions too precipitate." It is a mistake to regard Mead only as a genteel medical practitioner; history should write him down as a scientist as well.

During his years of practice his average income was between six and seven thousand pounds yearly. He received much and he gave much. He surpassed all the nobility of his time in his encouragement and patronage of the fine arts.

His books, statues, medals, paintings, drawings, etc., were housed in a gallery in his spacious mansion on Great Ormond Street, to which the public enjoyed access. The printed catalogue of his library showed nearly seven thousand volumes, among which were many rare and ancient works.

He was a man of great generosity, not only of purse but of mind. His house and his table were the resorts of the eminent men of his day. Pope was his intimate. Philanthropy and the good of his country were two of his ruling principles. It was Mead who persuaded the wealthy Guy to bequeath his fortune to the foundation of the hospital which bears his name. He was the most cultured physician and brightest ornament of medicine of the eighteenth century.

He conquered envy, for there was not a man in Europe towards whom he might cherish this feeling. He was happy in his relation to his profession, to the state and in his home. He had a large family, and lived a well rounded life. Of him Johnson said, "He lived more in the broad sunshine of life than almost any man."

THOMAS SYDENHAM, M.D., M.R.C.P., (1624-1689), was much admired by Samuel Johnson for the evidences of classical learning displayed in his writings. This cultured man studied at Oxford and received his bachelor's degree of medicine in 1648. When Oxford became a garrison for Charles I., Sydenham left on account of his anti-royalist sentiments, and joined the army of the Parliament, in which he became a captain. He returned to London to practice, against the protestations of his friends, while the plague was still present. He studied more of medicine at Montpellier, and became a member of the Royal College of Physicians in 1663. His great work, "Medical Observations" first appeared in 1666.

Sydenham was perhaps the most scientific mind in the medical profession of his time. He was not given to abstract theories, but founded his teaching and practice upon observation and experience. *He recognized the healing power of nature, the self-limiting tendency of diseases, and saw in disease an effort of the body to eliminate morbid materials.* His was the triumph of sound judgment over vague hypotheses. Perhaps no single physician exerted so beneficial an influence over the practice of medicine. His very graphic treatise on the gout he composed while suffering with that disease so severely that he was unable to hold a pen.

He is buried in the aisle near the south door of the Church of St. James, in Westminster. "The Life of Sydenham," by Samuel Johnson, lays medicine under an obligation to the great lexicographer.

Thomas Sydenham and John Locke were not only close friends, but they were of so much service to one another that each made a decided impression upon the other's work and writings. Locke, the founder of analytical mental philosophy, and Sydenham, the founder of practical philosophy as applied to medical knowledge, were so close that Dr. John Brown made them the combined subject of a delightful biographical essay. It was Locke who designated Sydenham



THOMAS SYDENHAM

as "one of the master-builders in the commonwealth of learning."

John Brown said: "Sydenham, the prince of practical physicians, whose character is as beautiful and as genuinely English as his name, did for his art what Locke did for the philosophy of mind—he made it, in the main, observational; he made knowledge a means, not an end."

HERMAN BOERHAAVE, M.D. (1668-1738), the most eminent medical man of continental Europe of his time, was born near Leyden. He was one of thirteen children. He studied all of the branches of learning with much diligence, and because

he found that certain theological doctrines were not conformable to his understanding, he cast his interest with medicine. He was intended for the clergy, and his brother for medicine. One day Herman was returning from a neighboring town in a passenger boat, when one of the passengers began an harangue with great violence against Benedict Spinoza, whose great work had recently been published in Leyden. Observing Boerhaave in the dress of a divinity student, the truculent controversialist expected his sympathy and support, but Boerhaave having discovered that the declaimer was



speaking beyond his understanding, instead of joining him in his abuse of Spinoza, calmly asked him if he had read Spinoza's works. He replied that he "had not, and should esteem it wicked to look even into them." "How then," returned Boerhaave, "can you pretend to judge them?" This silenced the stranger, but it was immediately reported over Leyden that Boerhaave had turned Spinosist. In conse-

quence of this report, he found it impossible to seek promotion in the Church, and accordingly he was glad to induce his brother to exchange studies with him.

He applied himself to chemistry, botany, anatomy and medicine, graduating in 1693. A professorship in medicine at Leyden followed. He was one of the founders of clinical teaching. Though the resources of the hospital at Leyden were small, the great talents of this man drew to it students from all parts of Europe. He gave separate lectures upon ophthalmology, and was the first to employ the magnifying glass in examining the eye. His rare learning and skill attracted not only students but patients from far and near. A letter from a Chinese official addressed "To the Most Famous Physician in Europe" reached him.

He was a man of simplicity, dignity, and purity of character. "Simplicity is the seal of truth" was his maxim. His benevolence was as broad as his wisdom, treating the rich and the poor alike. He required Peter the Great to await his turn to consult him, causing the monarch to spend several hours before he could receive attention. "The Life of Boerhaave," written by Samuel Johnson (1739), displays his "love of chymistry which never forsook him." He died at the age of seventy, rich with honors.

SIR ALEXANDER DICK, M.D., born in 1703, was a physician of Prestonfield. He became President of the College of Physicians of Edinburgh. When Johnson was seventy-five years old, and suffering his last illness, he wrote to Boswell at Edinburgh, describing his symptoms, and requesting that Boswell ask "our physicians" about his case. Sir Alexander was first consulted. He wrote out his opinion, and it was transmitted to Johnson. "That very amiable Baronet" was then in his eighty-first year, president of the College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and "with his faculties as entire as ever." In the note accompanying the opinion Sir Alexander expressed himself to Boswell, "With my most affectionate wishes for Dr. Johnson's recovery, in which his friends, his country, and all mankind have so deep a stake."

It was at this time that the opinion of Dr. Gillespie was also secured. Some light is thrown upon the not uncommon treatment *in absentio*, which was practiced at that time, by Johnson's response to these opinions:

"Presently after I had sent away my last letter, I received your kind medical packet. I am very much obliged both to you and to your

physicians for your kind attention to my disease. Dr. Gillespie has sent me an excellent *consilium medicum*, all solid practical experimental knowledge. I am at present, in the opinion of my physicians (Dr. Heberden and Dr. Brocklesby), as well as my own, going on very hopefully. I have just begun to take vinegar of squills. The powder hurt my stomach so much that it could not be continued.

"Return Sir Alexander Dick my sincere thanks for his kind letter, but bring with you the rhubarb which he so tenderly offers me."

Sir Alexander Dick cultivated rhubarb so successfully in his garden at Prestonfield that he was presented with a gold medal by the Society of London for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce. He was also interested in horticulture. He planted trees, of which, he said, "It is now fifty years ago, and the trees, now in my seventy-fourth year, I look up to with reverence, and shew them to my eldest son, now in his fifteenth year." Johnson said, "Sir Alexander Dick is the only Scotchman liberal enough not to be angry that I could not find trees, where trees are not."

DR. GILLESPIE was another Scotchman who was requested to send his opinion of Johnson's case to Boswell.

DR. GAUBIUS (1705-1780) was Professor at Leyden. He was physician to the Prince of Orange, and is mentioned by Goldsmith after his return from Leyden. The men of this period who studied at Leyden mention Gaubius with much regard, and he was inferior only to Boerhaave himself in his fame as a teacher. He taught many branches of medicine, among which were pathology and chemistry.

DR. HOPE, Professor in the Edinburgh School of Medicine, was consulted by Boswell for Johnson in his last illness.

MR. BARRET, the surgeon at Bristol whom Johnson called upon, was interested in literature and poetry.

SIR EDWARD BARRY, BART, M.D., F.R.S. (1696-1776), was a peculiar man who enjoyed considerable success in Dublin. When he was physician general to the army, and professor of physic in the University, he came to London to practice, but his peculiar views seemed to militate against his success. Boswell gives us Johnson's discussion of Barry's views on pulsation, which were to the effect that the bodily pulsations caused a wearing away of the body. He was the author of a "System of Physick."

MR. BELCHIER, the surgeon, is also referred to. (*Vide* Oldfield.)

JOHN OLDFIELD, M.D., F.R.C.P. (1717-1748), was one of

the physicians to Guy's Hospital. Of him Johnson said, "There was a Dr. Oldfield who was always talking of the Duke of Marlborough. He came into a coffee house one day, and told that his Grace had spoken in the house for half an hour. 'Did he, indeed, speak for half an hour?' said Belchier, the surgeon. 'Yes.' 'And what did he say of Dr. Oldfield?' 'Nothing.' 'Why, then, Sir, he was very ungrateful, for Dr. Oldfield could not have spoken for a quarter of an hour without saying something of him.'"

THOMAS GISBORNE, M.D., F.R.C.P., was physician to his Majesty's household and ten times elected president of the Royal College of Physicians.

DR. INYON, of Pulham, Norfolk, was a physician and classical scholar, and author of an elegant epigram in Latin, published in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1743, in reply to an ode by Johnson.

JOSEPH NATHANIEL FORD, M.D., was an eminent physician and brother of Johnson's mother. He was the father of the Rev. Mr. Ford, a licentious parson, who was said to be the original of the parson in Hogarth's "Modern Midnight Conversation."

GEORGE FORDYCE, M.D., F.R.C.P. (1736-1802), was an intimate of Johnson's and a member of the Literary Club. He was a man of much learning and culture, and the possessor of an excellent collection of pictures. He was senior physician to St. Thomas' Hospital, and founder with John Hunter of the Society for the Improvement of Medical and Chirurgical Knowledge and the London Medical Lyceum. He lectured on chemistry, materia medica and practice of medicine three consecutive hours, from seven to ten, six times weekly, and was one of the most popular medical teachers in London. At four o'clock each day, for more than twenty years, he sat down to dinner—his only meal of the day—at Dolly's in Paternoster Row. He was always too busy with what he regarded as more profitable pursuits to develop much medical practice.

DR. SWINFERN was a well-known physician at Litchfield. When Johnson was a young man he became much distressed concerning his morbid feelings, and wrote a statement of his case in Latin with which he applied to Dr. Swinfern for relief. The doctor was so impressed with the acuteness of observation displayed and the elegance of the Latin that he showed this case

history to several of his friends and thereby incurred the everlasting enmity of Johnson.

SIR THOMAS BROWNE (1605-1682) is best known as the author of the "Religio Medici"; and he comes within the scope of these biographical notes because of the fact that his life was written by Samuel Johnson and published in 1756 as a prefix to an edition of his "Christian Morals."

He was the son of a respected London merchant. At the age of eighteen we find him entering Pembroke College, Oxford, where he took the degree of Master of Arts. He then turned



SIR THOMAS BROWNE

his attention to medicine and entered upon practice at Oxfordshire. In the meantime his father had died, and his mother married Sir Thomas Dutton, who started the young man on a tour of travel and study which lasted some two years. He visited Ireland, and thence he passed to France, Italy and Holland. He studied at Montpellier, Padua and at the University of Leyden, taking the degree of Doctor of Medicine at the latter place. In his travels he learned much more of humanity than of medicine, and broadened his culture beyond the possibilities of Oxford. In these catholic countries he learned charity though remaining

a protestant. "I can dispense with my hat at the sight of the cross, but scarce with the thought of my Saviour."

Returning to London in 1634 he was able to declare that he understood six languages. He settled at Shibden Hall, near Halifax, and before he was thirty he had written the "Religio Medici." This work he had probably been engaged upon for several years, setting it down in the form of notes and memoranda, presumably not for publication but at "leisurable hours for his private exercises and satisfaction." It circulated in manuscript form among his friends, during which time several copies were transcribed. One of these copies, with many inaccuracies, found its way to a printer and appeared as an anonymous publication. Up until 1905 sixty editions of this work had appeared—45 English and 15 foreign.* During Browne's life twenty-three editions appeared in print—thirteen English and ten foreign, the latter being in Latin, Dutch, French, and German. The work was also translated into High Dutch and Italian. This gives one an idea of the esteem in which the "Religio Medici" was held, yet the author was responsible for but one of these publications, and put his name to but one. He did not correct the numerous errata, excepting in the edition of 1643, and while many of the editions bore the legend "Corrected and Amended," Thomas Browne had not put his pen to them. It seems evident that the author felt that his friends had stolen from him this work which he had written only for himself and them, and placed it in the mercenary hands of the publishers and printers. Late in life he alluded to it simply as "a piece of mine published long ago." There are at least five manuscripts of this work in existence, all presenting minor differences.

Of this book Johnson said, "It excited by the novelty of paradoxes, the dignity of sentiment, the quick succession of images, the multitudes of abstrusive allusions, subtlety of disquisition, and the strength of language." The German critic Tobias Wagner said that "the seeds of atheistic impiety were so scattered throughout Browne's book that it could hardly be read without danger of infection," although if Johnson made no such criticism, it must have seemed well within the fold of orthodoxy. Still many adverse criticisms emanated from orthodox sources, and the book was placed upon the "Index," Browne

* For a complete bibliography of the "Religio Medici," see MEDICAL LIBRARY AND HISTORICAL JOURNAL, October, 1905, page 264.

always contending that he was strictly within the fold of the English Church and a good Protestant. He says: "I am a born subject, and, therefore, in a double obligation to observe her constitutions; whatever is beyond, as points indifferent, I observe according to the rules of my private reason, or the humor and fashion of my devotion—neither believing this because Luther affirmed it, or disproving that because Calvin hath disavouched it; I condemn not all things in the council of Trent, nor approve all in the synod of Dort. In brief, where the Scripture is silent the Church is my text; where that speaks, 'tis but my covenant; where there is a joint silence of both, I borrow not the rules of my religion from Rome or Geneva, but the dictates of my own reason."

Here is another sample of Browne's style: "There are a bundle of curiosities not only in philosophy but in divinity, proposed and discussed by men of supposed ability, which, indeed, are not worthy our vacant hours, much less our serious studies. 'Tis ridiculous to put off or down the general flood of Noah in that particular inundation of Deucalion; that there was a deluge seems not to me so great a miracle as that there is not one a'ways."

Browne settled in Norwich in 1636, and in 1637 was made Doctor of Physic in the University of Oxford. He married, in 1641, "a lady of such symmetrical proportion to her worthy husband, both in the graces of her body and mind, that they seemed to come together by a kind of natural magnetism." They lived in happiness for forty years—he and dame Dorothy. Ten children added to their joys. The elder son, Edward, had a distinguished career and became President of the Royal College of Physicians and physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Thomas Browne practiced his profession faithfully for forty-five years, and interested himself in the collateral sciences and in literature. He was devoted to his family, and we have preserved some of his domestic correspondence giving a delightful glimpse into his family life (*Browne's Works* in four volumes, edited by Senior Wilkin, F.L.S., 1835. London. W. Pickering). He was knighted by Charles II in 1671. He was a well rounded man, prudent, generous, and well balanced. "He was never seen to be transported with mirth or dejected with sadness. His gravity was natural without affectation."

Of his works we have been most interested in his "Religio Medici," but some of his other writings are quite as worthy of

consideration. In 1646 he published "Pseudodoxia Epidemica or Enquiries into very many received Tenets, and commonly presumed Truths," a work displaying extraordinary erudition. In 1658 appeared "Hydriotaphia," being upon "urne-burial, or a discourse upon the sepulchral urnes lately found at Norfolk." This deals most learnedly with the burial customs of all peoples and the philosophy of this subject, and refers to the adornments of cemeterial cells as "sweetening our habitations in the land of moles and pismires." He says, "There is no antidote against the opinion of time which temporarily considereth all things. Our fathers find their graves in our short memories, and sadly tell us how we may be buried in our survivor's." He also wrote a treatise entitled, "The Garden of Cyrus, or the Quincunxical Lozenge." His "Christian Morals" was prized so highly by Johnson that it prompted him to write a biography of the author.

Sir Thomas Browne died at the age of seventy-seven, upon his birthday October 19, 1682, and was buried at the church of St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich. Curiously in his "Letter to a Friend," written some time before, he says that it seems a remarkable coincidence "in persons who outlive many years, and when there are no less than three hundred and sixty-five days to determine their lives every year—that the first day should make the last, that the tail of the snake should return into its mouth precisely at that time, and they should wind up upon the day of their nativity."

It was Browne who said, "Who knows the fate of his bones or how often he is to be buried? Who hath the oracle of his ashes, or whither they are to be scattered." In the "Hydriotaphia" we find this sentiment: "To be knaved out of our graves—to have our skulls made drinking bowls, and our bones turned into pipes, to delight and sport our enemies—are tragical abominations escaped in burning burials." Yet, after his bones had rested for more than a century and a half in the church at Norwich, the sexton, in making a grave near by, in some unexplained way broke the coffin of Sir Thomas Browne and exposed the skeleton. The skull was removed and offered for sale, and was bought by Dr. Edward Lubbock, who in 1845 deposited it in the Museum of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital where it now reposes under a glass case, in a good state of preservation. Here may be reverently viewed by all the case of the brain of the great medical philosopher who wrote more learnedly and

tenderly than any other man upon the mutations of time and the instability of monuments to the dead.

JOSHUA WARD was "a celebrated and irregular practitioner of physic" who began practice about 1733. He was the dullest man that Johnson ever knew. He was the most famous nostrum monger of his time, and was known as "Spot" Ward from a mark on his face. In appearance he was a fat, heavy



CONSULTATION OF PHYSICIANS.

The above picture, also known as "The Undertakers' Arms," by Hogarth, shows a consultation of big-wigs with their gold-headed canes. The central figure of those outside the pale is that of "Crazy Sally," or "Mother Mapp, the bone-setter." On her right is seen "Spot" Ward (as he was called), and on her left, the celebrated Chevalier Taylor.

man, who went about in a showy open coach drawn by four horses. He was called to administer his "essence" to George II for headache. Upon leaving he did not back out of the King's presence according to custom, and when remonstrated with said, "that it was of no consequence to the King to see his back, but much consequence to him and the poor not to

break his neck." He had an allowance from the King to treat the poor. The King furnished sumptuous apartments for this work, and Ward gave medicines to the poor which the King paid for. He made much money out of the manufacture of oil of vitriol and died in 1761.

DR. THOMPSON, referred to by Boswell, was one of the many London practitioners who enjoy a short-lived reputation, acquired by methods best known to themselves. Like many of the kind at the present time he enjoyed the confidence of many men of prominence. Such men as Fielding, Pope and Lord Melcombe were his patrons. They were deceived by his confidence in himself, and a superior contempt with which he always spoke of the rest of the medical profession. They looked upon him as a genius who had reduced the healing art to an epitome.

Notwithstanding the great advantage of blowing his own trumpet and having others blow it for him, and the extravagant encomiums heaped upon him by Fielding and others, this bombastic pretender sank into contempt and obscurity, and soon disappeared from London medicine.

JOHN HILL, M.D. (1716-1775), was a literary man and a medical quack, of whom Garrick said.

"For physic and farces, his equal there scarce is,
His farces are physic, his physic a farce is."

In 1767 Johnson met the King in the library at the Queen's house. We may judge to what a degree of notoriety Hill had attained by the fact that in the course of the catechising of Johnson, the King asked him what he thought of Dr. Hill. Johnson replied that he was an ingenious man but had no veracity, and mentioned as an illustration that Hill had asserted that he had seen objects magnified to a much greater degree by using three or four microscopes at a time than by using one. "Now," added Johnson, "everyone acquainted with microscopes knows that the more of them he looks through the less the object will appear." "Why," replied the King, "this is not only telling an untruth, but telling it clumsily, for, if that be the case, every one who can look through a microscope will be able to detect him." Johnson then realizing that he had deprecated in the presence of the King one of his subjects, attempted to make amends, and added that "Dr. Hill was a very curious observer, and if he would have been contented to tell the world no more than

he knew, he might have been a very considerable man, and needed not to have recourse to such mean expedients to raise his reputation." All of which goes to show that possibly Hill knew more of the microscope than Johnson or the King, and that to make excuses for a man often does him more damage than good.

JOHN TAYLOR, "The Chevalier of Whitworth," was a celebrated quack and oculist. "Taylor," said Johnson, "was the most ignorant man I ever knew, but sprightly! He was an example of how far impudence could carry ignorance." He once challenged Johnson to talk Latin with him. He was called to see the Bishop of Durham to meet in consultation with several physicians who objected to meeting him. John Hunter said that he had no objections to meet anybody who needed enlightenment, and met him accordingly.

Taylor was an itinerant oculist. He styled himself "Oculist to the King of Great Britain" (George II). He also abrogated to himself other high sounding titles, such as "Papal Oculist," "Ducal Oculist," "Court Oculist," and "Chevalier." In the *Mercury of France*, June, 1737, appeared the following: "Dr. Taylor, oculist to the King of Great Britain, has just arrived in Paris, at the London Hotel, Rue Dauphine, where he proposes to remain till the beginning of July, after which he will leave for Spain. He requested us to publish the discoveries he has made of straightening squint eyes by a slight and almost painless operation, and without fear of accident." (Walton, "Diseases of the Eye," p. 366). This man published a little pamphlet entitled, "De Vera Causa Strabismi," which he distributed on his journeys. He was the first to write upon this operation. Le Cat, who saw Taylor operate, has described him graphically. (Lucien Boyer, "Recherches sur l'Operation du Strabisme," 1842). He was a charlatan but still a very capable and widely experienced oculist. (For a picture of Taylor see "A Treatise on the Motor Apparatus of the Eyes," by G. T. Stevens. F. A. Davis Co., 1906, p. 26.)

These are the apostles of medicine whom Mr. Boswell, the faithful chronicler, has mentioned. They are by no means all of the contemporary doctors of Johnson's time. Missing from this group of noteworthy names are Abernethy, Baillie, Bell, Cheselden, Cline, Cooper, Pettigrew, Pitcairn, Sandys,

Smellie, Erasmus Darwin, Pringle, Fothergill, Dover, Sir Samuel Garth, Tobias Smollett, Wolcot, George Crabbe, James Currie, and many others.

We have only taken a little glimpse into the lives of those men, mentioned by the chronicler, who have in some measure shaped the course of the art and science of medicine.

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